

## Message Text

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10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-03 IGA-01 HEW-02 /061 W

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R 080015Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6593

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING FOUR ADDITIONAL BELL 212  
HELICOPTERS

REF: ALBERTI/KEANE TELECON MARCH 3; MEXICO 1689

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE EXISTS POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING  
EARLY DELIVERY OF UP TO FOUR BELL 212 HELICOPTERS. THESE AIRCRAFT  
HAD BEEN ORDERED FROM BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY BY AIR LOGISTICS,  
INC., FOR DELIVERY IN MARCH AND APRIL. LATTER FIRM WOULD PREFER  
LET THESE OPTIONS GO NOW, AND WOULD BE WILLING LET USG TAKE  
DELIVERY AS THE AIRCRAFT COME OFF BELL ASSEMBLY LINE.

2. USG STILL "OWES" GOM TWO BELL 212 HELICOPTERS FUNDED UNDER  
NOVEMBER 1, 1974 AGREEMENT. THESE WERE PROGRAMMED FOR DELIVERY  
IN JULY AND AUGUST 1975. IF USG TAKES DELIVERY OF TWO OF THE  
HELICOPTERS ORDERED BY AIR LOGISTICS, HOWEVER, THEY CAN PROBABLY  
BE WORKING IN THE CAMPAIGN DURING APRIL. IF WE ALSO TAKE  
DELIVERY OF TWO ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS ORDERED BY AIR LOGISTICS,  
THEY WOULD BE IN COUNTRY ABOUT ONE MONTH LATER, BUT ALSO IN  
TIME FOR IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN. IN OUR FY'76  
PROGRAM GUIDANCE WE HAD ALLOWED FOR THREE BELL 212'S TO BE FUNDED  
FROM FY '76 MONIES. TO TAKE DELIVERY OF THE LATTER TWO SHIPS  
NOW WOULD OF COURSE ADVANCE OUR PROGRAM CONSIDERABLY.

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3. THESE POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AND APPROVED BY EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE. WE FEEL THAT THE INFUSION OF FOUR ADDITIONAL BELL 212 HELICOPTERS INTO THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN HELPING GOM IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF POPPY PLANTATIONS ALREADY LOCATED IN THE SINALOA/DURANGO/CHIHUAHUA AREA. AS REPORTED IN MEXICO 1689, GOM NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET TO REACH FIELDS BEFORE THEY ARE HARVESTED AND OPPORTUNITY IS LOST TO MAKE IMPACT ON TRAFFIC.

4. THIS SAME SUBJECT ALSO DISCUSSED MARCH 7 WITH DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSALES MIRANDA, WHO EXPRESSED HIS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AGREEMENT AND STRONG INTEREST IN OBTAINING EARLY DELIVERY OF THESE FOUR HELICOPTERS.

5. GOM ALREADY HAS SUFFICIENT PILOTS AND MECHANICS TO HANDLE THESE ADDITIONAL SHIPS. SPARE PARTS PACKAGES, OF COURSE, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE LATTER TWO 212'S. IN ANY CASE, HOWEVER, THE TECH SERVICES CONTRACT IS NOW CONCLUDED, SPARE PARTS PIPELINE IS FUNCTIONING AND WE FORESEE LITTLE DOWN-TIME IN FUTURE DUE TO MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR PROBLEMS.

6. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO NEGOTIATE WITH BELL COMPANY FOR DELIVERY OF THESE FOUR HELICOPTERS. APPRECIATE RECEIPT SOONEST OF SUGGESTED AGREEMENT TEXT FOR THE TWO 212'S NOT ALREADY PROVIDED UNDER THE NOVEMBER AGREEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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